

Ex. # 1896

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For the WAR CRIMES OFFICE
Judge Advocate General's Department - War Department
United States of America
- - - -

In the matter of the mistreatment of * Perpetuation of Testimony
American Prisoners of War held by the * of Robert McCulloch Brown,
Japanese at the Shanghai War Prisoners * Sergeant, USMC,
Camp in January 1944 * MC-273-608

Taken at: Philadelphia Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Date: 7 February 1946
In the Presence of: Bernard J. McGrory, Special Agent, Security
Intelligence Corps, Third Service Command
Reporter: Doris Wadsworth, Stenographer, Philadelphia Field Office,
Security Intelligence Corps, Third Service Command
Questions by: Bernard J. McGrory

Q. State your name, rank, serial number, and permanent home address?

A. [My name is Robert McCulloch Brown. I am a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps and my Serial Number is MC-273-608.] My permanent home address is located at 74 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey.

Q. Describe your educational background.

A. I have completed approximately a year and a half at New York University taking various courses in Accountancy. During some of my service in the Marine Corps, I have been assigned to Public Relations work and have had some experience as a newspaper correspondent.

Q. Have you recently been returned to the United States from overseas?

A. Yes. I arrived in the United States at the Port of Oakland, California, on 6 October 1945.

[Q. Were you a Prisoner of War?

A. Yes.

Q. At what places were you held and state the approximate dates.

[A. I was captured by the Japanese on Wake Island on 23 December 1941. We were held there until 12 January 1942 when we embarked on the vessel "Nitta Maru" for Shanghai. We arrived at Shanghai on 24 January 1942 and were held at the Shanghai War Prisoners Camp from that date until 4 May 1945.] We were then taken to Fengtai, near Peking, China, where we remained until 19 June 1945. From that date until 7 July 1945, we were travelling, finally

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arriving at Branch #3, Hakodate War Prisoners Camp, Utashinai, Hokkaido, Japan. The Prisoners of War held at this Camp assumed charge of the Camp on 24 August 1945, but our official liberation did not occur until 16 September 1945, at an airport near Yokohama.

Q. Were there any specific incidents of mistreatment of American Prisoners of War which you can recall?

A. Yes. [The incident which I am about to describe occurred at the Shanghai War Prisoners Camp during several days in January 1944. The Japanese discovered that some of the Prisoners of War had managed to retain some American money, and by means of pro-American Chinese employees at the camp, were exchanging this American money for Chinese dollars in Shanghai. By torturing some of the Chinese who carried on these transactions, the Japanese were able to identify some of the Americans involved in the matter. These Americans included the following persons:

Lt. W. T. Foley, U. S. Navy, a physician.
Supply Sgt. H. B. Stowers, U. S. Marine Corps.
Platoon Sgt. Joe M. Stowe, U. S. Marine Corps.
S/Sgt. John C. Minnick, U. S. Army Air Corps.
Ambrose Lum, a United States citizen of Chinese derivation, who had been employed on Wake Island.

These men were seized by the Japanese, headed by one ISHIHARA, a civilian, and one Lt. MYAZAKI, a camp officer. They were taken to the administration shack and were subjected to severe physical mistreatment by the Japanese, who were trying to make them identify the personnel who had the money.

Q. Can you describe the physical mistreatment which these men suffered?

A. I was not present when these men were subjected to this ordeal, but learned of it later directly from them. The men were first severely beaten by ISHIHARA and MYAZAKI. Some of these beatings consisted of being struck with a riding crop frequently used by ISHIHARA to inflict discipline upon the prisoners. After they had been mauled in this manner, each prisoner was held on the floor and was forced to open his mouth. Then, with a Japanese holding the prisoner's nose, water was poured into the prisoner's open mouth until he became unconscious. The Japanese then slapped the prisoner's face and threw cold water on his body in order to revive him. This incident took place in January 1944 and the weather was very cold. It is therefore apparent that the use of cold water on prisoners under such circumstances imposed a severe shock upon their systems. These five men were subjected to this treatment for twelve days, until the Japanese finally decided that additional mistreatment would cause their deaths. The men were then hospitalized and later returned to duty.]

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Q. In your opinion, who was responsible for this mistreatment?

A. Unquestionably, ISHIMURA and NYAZAKI were responsible. ISHIMURA was a civilian work supervisor at the camp and was in charge of a work project, which consisted of building a rifle range for the Japanese. He was employed by the Japanese Civil Service or similar organization. He was definitely sadistic and hated the American Prisoners of War, mistreating them at every opportunity. He was nicknamed "The Beast of the East." He was about sixty-eight inches tall, was very slight, wore horn-rimmed glasses, and sometimes wore a mustache. He was able to speak good English and was particularly familiar with American slang. It was rumored that ISHIMURA had formerly been a taxicab driver in Honolulu and had become proficient in the English language in this manner.

NYAZAKI, when we arrived at the camp, was an enlisted man and was a Sergeant Major. However, he was later commissioned and became one of the camp officers. He was in charge of the guards and also held some administrative position over the work detail. He was also very slight in stature and build, and was nicknamed "Tiny Tim," because of his appearance. I cannot adequately describe him, but recall that he had a "baby face" and was obviously very young, possibly in his early twenties.

Q. Do you know the locations of any of the five men who were subjected to this mistreatment?

A. I do not definitely know the addresses of any of these people, other than Ambrose Lum, who resides at 942 - 7th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii. All of these men can furnish more definite details concerning this incident.

/s/ ROBERT McCULLOCH BROWN
Robert McCulloch Brown, Sgt., USMC

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State of Pennsylvania)
County of Philadelphia) SS

I, Robert McCulloch Brown, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ ROBERT McCULLOCH BROWN
Robert McCulloch Brown, Sgt., USMC

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of February 1946.

/s/ ESTHER LEVENS
NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires at the
end of the next session of the
Senate.

(S E A L)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Bernard J. McCrory, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Third Service Command, certify that on 7 February 1946, personally appeared before me Robert McCulloch Brown, Sergeant, United States Marine Corps, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Robert McCulloch Brown read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania /s/ BERNARD J. McCRORY
Bernard J. McCrory, Special Agent
Date: 15 February 1946 Security Intelligence Corps, III S.C.

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答、私、姓名ハロバート・マカロ・ブラウント申之ヌ。私、米國海
兵隊ノ軍曹デ私、認識番号ハM・C・二五三六ハデアリヌ。

問、貴方ハ俘虜トナリマシタカ。

答、私、一九四二年十二月二十三日ハエイク島デ日本人ノ捕虜
トナリマシタ。私達ハ、一九四二年一月十二日迄抑留
サレ、ソノ後「新田丸」デ上海ニ向セマシタ。私達ハ上海ニ一九
四二年一月二十四日ニ到着、ソノ日カラ一九四五年五月四日迄ハ
海俘虜収容所ニ收容サレテ居リマシタ。

コカラ私が申之述べヤウトスル事件ハ上海俘虜収容
所ニ一九四四年一月中ノ数日間ニ起ツタコトデアリ
ヌ。日本人ハ一部ノ俘虜ガアメリカ貨幣中若干ヲ如
何ニカニテ持ッテ去テ、収容所ノ親米ノ中國人從
業員ノ手ヲ通ジテ、アメリカ貨幣ヲ上海
デ中國幣ト交換シテ去ルコトヲ發見シマシ
タ。コノ取引ヲ実行シタ中國人ノ或者ヲ拷
問シタ結果日本人ハコノ事件ニ關係アル一
部ノ米人ヲ識別スルコトガ出来マシタ。コノ米人、
中ニハ次ノ如キ人が包モシテサヌ。

米國海軍軍医大尉 W. J. オリー

米國海兵隊經理部軍曹 H. B. ストウアズ

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米國海兵隊小隊軍曹 ジョージ・ストウエ

米國陸軍航空隊軍曹 ジョージ・ミニツク

アメリカロズビル、中國系アメリカ市民デューエイ、島子働
イテキタ者。

コウイフタタカ日本人ニ捕アリミタガフ日本人ヲ指揮スル
人ハ石原軍属デアリ又ハ收容所士官宮崎中尉デア
リミタ。彼等ハ管理所ニ連行サレ日本人カラヒドイ
肉体的虐待ヲ受ケミタ。又日本人達ハ彼等ヲヒドイ
貨幣ヲ持ツテキタ者ガ誰デアレカ識別サセヨウトミタ。

問、貴方ハソノ達ガ如何イ様ナ肉体的虐待ヲ受ケタカ述ベル
トガ出来マスカ。

答、私ハ彼等ガ拷問ヲ受ケテキル時ニ屋舎セマデミタガ後ニ直
接ニ彼等カラソノミツテ聞キミタ。彼等ハソノ第一ニ石原ト宮崎ニ
ヒドク撲ツミタ。カウニ撲ツタ中ニハ石原ガソノモ倭虜ヲ
懲戒スル時ニ屢々用キタ栗馬鞭ヲ撲ツタコトデアリミタ。
彼等ヲカウニ毆ツテカス各倭虜ヲ床ニ抑ヘツケ無理ニ口ヲ
開ケサセミタ。ソレカラソノ日本人ハ倭虜ノ鼻ヲツミデ氣絶
スル迄倭虜ノ間イタ口カラ水ヲ注ギミタ。日本人ハソレカラ
倭虜ノ額ヲ平チデ撲リ意識ヲ回復サセル為メニ彼ノ身体ニ
冷水ヲ投ゲケタミタ。又事件ハ九四四年一月ニ起ツタ事デ大凄寒
イ氣候デミタ。ソレ故ニ様々場合ニ倭虜ニ冷水ヲカケルコトハ彼等ノ
身体ニヒドイ衝戟ヲ與ヘタコトハ明白デアリマス。又ハ十二日
間ツナ様々取扱ヲ受ケテ遂ニ日本ハソノ以上虐待スルハ彼等ヲ殺ス
トハ断定スルミタ。ソレデ彼等ハ脱サセラレ後前生臺歸サ
レミタ。

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